

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02772 300904Z

17

ACTION NEA-10

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R 300848Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3278

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 2772

PASS NEA/ARP FOR AMBASSADOR STOLTZFUS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SECU KU

SUBJECT: REJECTION OF KUWAIT UNIVERSITY - FLETCHER SCHOOL
PROJECT FOR GRADUATE INSTITUTE

1. KUWAIT UNIVERSITY COUNCIL HAS FORMALLY DECIDED REJECT JOINT PROJECT FOR CREATING KUWAIT DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE. DR. HASSAN IBRAHIM (ACTING PRESIDENT, DEAN OF FACULTY OF POLSCI-COMMERCE-ECON, COUNCIL MEMBER AND MAIN KUWAIT IN FORMULATING PROJECT) TOLD PAO HE DEEPLY REGRETS DECISION, BUT INDICATED IT MUST BE ACCEPTED AS FINAL. HE SAID THAT CONCEPT OF SUCH INSTITUTE -- IN FACT, ESSENTIALLY GRADUATE LEVEL SCHOOL -- WILL UNDOUBTEDLY COME UP AGAIN THE FUTURE, BUT THAT SPECIFIC PROJECT WITH FLETCHER DEAD. LETTER HAS GONE FROM KU TO DEAN GULLION.

2. DR. IBRAHIM AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN RETICENT TO DISCUSS EXACTLY WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN COUNCIL AND WHAT WENT WRONG, BUT INTERNAL UNIVERSITY POLITICS UNQUESTIONABLY PLAYED ROLE. HIS FACULTY WAS LEADER IN "AMERICANIZATION" OF KU AND AFTER LONG BATTLE INTRODUCTION OF CREDIT HOUR SYSTEM UNIVERSITYWIDE. THIS BATTLE LED TO RESIGNATION OF KUWAIT DEAN OF SCIENCE FACULTY. PERHAPS COUNCIL SAW THIS AS CHANCE RESTORE BALANCE. BUT THERE IS ALSO GROWING CRITICISM THAT RAPIDLY EXPANDING KU IS NOT YET CAPABLE HANDLING GRADUATE PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL INSTITUTES ON THAT LEVEL. IN COUNCIL THERE WAS APPARENTLY SOME QUESTIONING OVER WHETHER FLETCHER WAS MOST SUITABLE U.S. INSTITUTION IN THIS FIELD.

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3. DR. IBRAHIM ADDED THAT KU WELCOMES COOPERATION WITH FLETCHER

AND THAT COUNCIL DECISION HAS NO EFFECT ON EXISTING COLLABORATION
IN ENERGY FIELD OR POSSIBLE OTHER AREAS IN FUTURE.

4. EMBASSY AWARE OF LONG DELAY IN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL, BUT
DECISION COMES AS SURPRISE. ALL WE HAD HEARD INDICATED THAT
APPROVAL WAS VIRTUALLY ASSURED. THIS IS DISAPPOINTMENT, AS KDI
COULD HAVE BECOME EXTREMELY VALUABLE ADDITION TO LOCAL EDUCA-
TIONAL SCENE.
MAU

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